day is got over by resetting the minimum thermometer after every such shower. At sea level the temperature of the cold rain is about 75° F., which is above the early morning minimum at that level. Under normal circumstances, the temperature in Jamaica diminishes at the rate of 1° F. for every 315 feet, but when rain is falling from a thundercloud the diminution is 1° for every 177 feet.

### RECENT HIGH BALLOON ASCENSIONS.

In the Comptes Rendus of the Paris Academy of Sciences for April, 1896, Vol. CXXII, page 849, Messrs. Hermite and Besançon give the principal results of the last scientific balloon ascension which started at 11.30 a. m., March 22, after consulting the weather predictions of the Central Meteorological Bureau. The small balloon with its apparatus weighed 32 kilos. (70 pounds), and started with a vertical pull of 106 kilos. (235 pounds); consequently the balloon rose perpendicularly for three or four minutes with a steadily increasing velocity. For nearly half an hour the balloon scarcely moved from the vertical, so that the velocity of ascent certainly exceeded 5 or 6 meters (16 to 20 feet) per second. After three and a half hours the balloon descended near Cambray. The self-registers show that it attained a maximum height of 14,000 meters (42,933 feet) within about forty-five minutes after starting, and a minimum temperature of —63° C. (—81.4° F.). The temperature at the surface of the earth beneath the balloon at that moment was +14° C. (+57.2° F.). Consequently the average rate of decrease was 1° C. (1.8° F.) for 182 meters (597 feet). This value does not much exceed that found in their voyage of October 20, 1895, when the aerostate at an altitude of 15,500 meters (50,854 feet) experienced a temperature of —70° C. (—94.0° F.), while the temperature at the surface of the ground was +11° C. (+51.8° F.). The registering thermometer has been tested in a very cold inclosure, and records properly down to —80° C. (—112.0° F.).

## METEOROLOGICAL TABLES.

By A. J. HENRY, Chief of Division of Records and Meteorological Data.

Table I gives, for about 130 Weather Bureau stations making two observations daily and for about 20 others making only the 8 p. m. observation, the data ordinarily needed for climatological studies, viz, the monthly mean pressure, the monthly means and extremes of temperature, the average conditions as to moisture, cloudiness, movement of the wind, and the departures from normals in the case of pressure, temperature, and precipitation.

Table II gives, for about 2,700 stations occupied by voluntary observers, the extreme maximum and minimum temperatures, the mean temperature deduced from the average of all the daily maxima and minima, or other readings, as indicated by the numeral following the name of the station; the total monthly precipitation, and the total depth in inches of any snow that may have fallen. When the spaces in the snow column are left blank it indicates that no snow has fallen, but when it is possible that there may have been snow of which no record has been made, that fact is indicated by leaders, thus (. . . .).

Table III gives, for about 30 Canadian stations, the mean pressure, mean temperature, total precipitation, prevailing wind, and the respective departures from normal values. Reports from Newfoundland and Bermuda are included in this table for convenience of tabulation.

Table IV gives detailed observations at Honolulu, Republic of Hawaii, by Curtis J. Lyons, meteorologist to the Government Survey.

Table V gives, for 26 stations, the mean hourly temperatures deduced from thermographs of the pattern described and figured in the Report of the Chief of the Weather Bureau, 1891–'92, p. 29.

Table VI gives, for 26 stations, the mean hourly pressures as automatically registered by Richard barographs, except for Washington, D. C., where Foreman's barograph is in use. Both instruments are described in the Report of the Chief of the Weather Bureau, 1891–'92, pp. 26 and 30.

Table VII gives, for about 130 stations, the arithmetical means of the hourly movements of the wind ending with the respective hours, as registered automatically by the Robinson anemometer, in conjunction with an electrical recording mechanism, described and illustrated in the Report of the Chief of the Weather Bureau, 1891–'92, p. 19.

Table VIII gives the danger points, the highest, lowest, and mean stages of water in the rivers at cities and towns on the principal rivers; also the distance of the station from the river mouth along the river channel.

Table IX gives, for all stations that make observations at 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., the four component directions and the resultant directions based on these two observations only and without considering the velocity of the wind. The total movement for the whole month, as read from the dial of the Robinson anemometer, is given for each station in Table I. By adding the four components for the stations comprised in any geographical division one may obtain the average resultant direction for that division.

Table X gives the total number of stations in each State from which meteorological reports of any kind have been received, and the number of such stations reporting thunderstorms (T) and auroras (A) on each day of the current month.

Table XI gives, for 38 stations, the percentages of hourly sunshine as derived from the automatic records made by two essentially different types of instruments, designated, respectively, the thermometric recorder and the photographic recorder. The kind of instrument used at each station is indicated in the table by the letter T or P in the column following the name of the station.

Table XII gives the record of excessive precipitation at all stations from which reports are received.

Table XIII gives a record of the heaviest rainfalls for periods of five and ten minutes and one hour, as reported by regular stations of the Weather Bureau furnished with self-registering rain gauges.

Additional information concerning the tables will be found in the REVIEW for January, 1895.

### NOTES EXPLANATORY OF THE CHARTS.

Chart I.—Tracks of centers of low pressure. The roman letters show number and order of centers of low areas. The figures within the circles show the days of the month; the letters *a* and *p* indicate, respectively, the 8 a. m. and 8 p. m., seventy-fifth meridian time, observations. The queries (?) on the tracks show that the centers could not be satisfactorily located. Within each circle is given the lowest barometric reading reported near the center. A blank indicates that no reports were available. A wavy line indicates the axis of a trough or long oval area of low pressure.

Chart II.—Tracks of centers of high pressure. The roman letters show number and order of centers of high areas. The figures within the circles show the days of the month; the